

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: December 15, 2000

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on December 8, 2000

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Francis X. Lyons
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, training/conferences, and stakeholder feedback:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Removal Action Completed, Peet Packing Site, Chesaning, Michigan

On December 5, 2000, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) completed a removal action at the Peet Packing site in Chesaning, Saginaw County, Michigan. At the request of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), U.S. EPA conducted a site assessment at the site on July 31, 2000. The assessment documented the presence of several hundred containers of acidic, caustic, and flammable materials in a deteriorated, abandoned former meat processing facility. Further investigations during the removal action documented the presence of asbestos, mercury, and ammonia wastes at the facility. On October 23, 2000, removal actions were initiated. These actions included the collection, sampling, and field chemistry testing (hazcatting) of all containers at the facility. All containerized waste was ultimately bulked and transported off-site for disposal at U.S. EPA-approved facilities. Additional removal actions included the emptying and dismantling of an above-ground storage tank containing heating oil, as well as the abatement of friable asbestos containing material from the former boiler room at the facility. A total of 45 drums of waste, 96 bags of asbestos-contaminated debris, 120 cubic yards of solid waste, and 8,500 gallons of bulked liquids were transported off-site for disposal during the course of the removal action.

The On-Scene Coordinator participated in multiple newspaper and television interviews and briefed the local Kiwanis Club at the conclusion of the removal activities.

Contact: Michelle Jaster (734-692-7683)

Response (Mercury), Medical Clinic, Clarkston, Michigan

On December 1, 2000, acting on a request for technical assistance from the Oakland County, Michigan, Health Department, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Robert Buckley responded with the Superfund Technical Assistant and Response Team (START) support, to a medical clinic in Clarkston when horse-playing juvenile patients reportedly knocked over a free-standing blood pressure gauge. Also, responding were the Oakland County Health Department and the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Breathing zone, floor level, and other measurements for mercury were taken with a Lumex meter. Readings were provided to the Health Department to determine their course of action. An offer of post-cleaning monitoring was made.

Contact: Bob Buckley (734-692-7662)

Oil Pollution Act Agreement Signed, Illinois Power Company, Belleville, Illinois

On October 13, 2000, William Muno, Superfund Division Director, signed the Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) resolving the Complaint issued by U.S. EPA Region 5 against Illinois Power Company (Illinois Power), Belleville, Illinois, pursuant to Section 311 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). The Belleville Service facility is the central maintenance and service facility for the Belleville area, consisting of offices, a warehouse, a garage, and a storage yard. Petroleum products used or stored include gasoline, diesel fuel, used oil, lubricants, bulk transformer oil, and other oils for electrical equipment.

The facility had been inspected for compliance with the Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) regulation, 40 CFR 112, and had been issued a Letter of Deficiency delineating the areas of non-compliance. All but one area of non-compliance had been worked out with the facility. A Class II Administrative Complaint was issued to Illinois Power for failure to have a quick drainage system for the tank truck loading/unloading area with a containment system designed to hold at least the maximum capacity of any single compartment of a tank truck used for loading/unloading at the facility in violation of 40 CFR

§112.7(e) (4) (ii) and Section 311(b) (3) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §§1321(b) (3). The Complainant proposed a penalty of \$25,000 for the alleged violation of the CWA which was accepted by the U.S. EPA.

Contacts: Barb Carr (312-886-7187)
Bob McCoy (312-886-0185)

Revised Groundwater Sampling Event Completed, Fisher-Calo Superfund Site, Kingsbury, Indiana

In November 2000, semi-annual groundwater monitoring was completed at the Fisher-Calo site in Kingsbury, Indiana. This sampling event was revised from the previous quarterly groundwater monitoring, which took place for two years. Most of the semi-volatile and metals groundwater analysis has been eliminated, leaving primarily volatile sampling for future semi-annual events.

The Fisher-Calo site has been in operation and maintenance since 1998. The remedy involves a pump & treatment system for four groundwater plumes, and enhanced soil vapor extraction of soil areas. The property was previously used for solvent recycling operations before it became a Superfund site.

Contact: Jeff Gore (312-886-6552)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Meeting, Sterling Heights Municipal Security Task Force, Sterling Heights, Macomb County, Michigan

On November 28, 2000, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Robert Buckley attended the monthly meeting of the Sterling Heights Municipal Security Task Force. The Task Force is a partnership of public and private entities within or near the City of Sterling Heights, Macomb County, Michigan. The group is concerned with the impact of disasters, including weapons of mass destruction, on both the public and private sectors. The county is home to Selfridge Air National Guard (ANG) Base and major auto-related manufacturing complexes as well as schools, hospitals, and residences. A major exercise is being planned for next May. The group received an award from the International Association of Emergency Managers. Michigan State University, through a grant, has developed a

vulnerability protocol. Members of the group work with Sandia Labs, a government think tank.

Contact: Bob Buckley (734-692-7662)

Staff Exercise 2001 (STX01) Controller Training, Atlanta, Georgia

On December 2 & 3, 2000, Glenn Cekus, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (OCEPP), participated in this Department of Defense (DOD), 1st Army lead, disaster exercise program held in Atlanta, Georgia. The focus of these type of simulations is to train DOD Defense Coordinating Officers and Defense Coordinating elements to respond to a variety of man made and natural disasters that result in an activation of the Federal Response Plan. In the case of STX01, a catastrophic earthquake centered in the New Madrid Seismic Zone provides the hypothetical disaster. Six states in four Federal regions are "impacted" in this exercise, which will last for six days in early March 2001. Mr. Cekus helped review the simulated messages addressing chemical releases that will be "injected" into exercise play to both train and test the above DOD components.

Contact: Glenn Cekus (312-353-6449)

Meeting, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Regional Incident Steering Committee (RISC), Chicago, Illinois

On December 5 and 6, 2000, the quarterly Regional Incident Steering Committee (RISC) meeting was held at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 5 Offices in Chicago. Tom Geishecker (Emergency Response Branch) and Glenn Cekus (Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention) represented U.S. EPA Region 5 at the meeting. The agenda topics included the outlook for fuel shortages this winter, the effect of a New Madrid Seismic Zone earthquake on natural gas and oil pipelines that pass through the zone, guidance for updating the Regional supplements to the Federal Response Plan that are required of U.S. EPA and other Federal agencies, and the locating and operation of mobilization centers used during disaster response operations. Glenn gave a briefing on U.S. EPA Region 5 disaster planning activities for the last quarter and provided information on the disaster response capabilities of the U.S. EPA and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Contact: Glenn Cekus (312-353-6449)

**Ecological Risk Assessment For Superfund Training, Wisconsin
Department of Natural Resources**

On October 24-25, 2000, Brenda Jones and Jim Chapman, Region 5, Superfund Division, Remedial Response Section, ecologists, presented a training class to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). The training was entitled "Ecological Risk Assessment Guidance For Superfund: Process For Designing and Conducting Ecological Risk Assessments." The 1.5 day training course was based on the 1997 Superfund ecological risk assessment guidance and was designed for Remedial Project Managers (RPMs) and On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) to become acquainted with the process of and the concepts associated with performing an ecological risk assessment.

WDNR staff and project managers from several divisions attended the course, which was well received. As a result of the training course, one WDNR project manager requested assistance from U.S. EPA in reviewing an ecological risk assessment performed by WDNR contractors on a Wisconsin-lead site. U.S. EPA and WDNR will work together on this site to perform the baseline risk assessment.

Contacts: Brenda Jones (312-886-7188)
Jim Chapman (312-886-7195)

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Letter of Appreciation, Indiana Emergency Response Commission

On-Scene Coordinator Steve Renninger received a letter from the Indiana Emergency Response Commission thanking him for giving a presentation at the 8th Annual Indiana LEPC Conference.

Contact: Jason El-Zein (734-692-7661)

cc: Steve Herman (OECA)
Barry Breen (OECA)
Tim Fields (OSWER)
Steve Luftig (OSWER)
Larry Reed (OERR)
Larry Zaragoza (OSWER)
Craig Beasley (OSWER)
Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators

Division/Office Directors
ORA State Coordinators
Regional Team Managers